CALIFORNIA'S BIG TREES:

.

THE FAR FAMED GROVES BEING CUT DOWN WITH ALARMING HASTE.

Lumbermen Destroying a Heritage From Former Ages-Location of the Sequoias-Public Parks and Private Holdings Estimates of Their Great Age-Danger of Extinction. A report which has just been issued by the Department of Agriculture from the pen of Mr. Gifford Pitichot, the Government forester, shows with overwhelming evidence that Cali-

fornia's greatest tragedy is drawing to a close. The curtain is about to fall on the last act, to the shame, not only of the State but of the nation and of the world. For motives of money merely, the far famed big trees are being cut down with alarming haste, and scarcely a finger is being raised to prevent their extinction. The cry of 'Save the forests!' always arouses in lovers of nature a pathetic interest, even though in this country it is too rarely heeded. There is a peculiar pathos about the looking of timber land, however necessary it must be, and even though the trees destroyed are of the commonest kind.

But the big trees of California are a heritage from former ages. Before man came to earth they grew as they grow to-day on the slopes of the Sierra Nevada. They bind us to the tertiary They alone of all the animal and vegetable life of those prehistoric days have survived the manifold vicissitudes of nature, to die at last by the hand of man. Those of the trees which still stand to-day with their towering tops piercing the skies are the oldest of all living things. Already when Christ came to earth had they risen to lofty grandeur. The life of our nation-a century and a quarter only is but a minute of their time. Alone in the world, save for their kindred few on a narrow strip not three bundred miles in length, growing only in small groves, sadly thinned already by the axe and the auger, scarred by fire and storm, they awaft the doom which is theirs, because their great trunks, when felled, can be transformed into dollars and cents.

Much has been written upon this subject and many appeals have been made that the few remaining specimens of the greatest and the most interesting trees of the world might be spared. Possibly it is not just to blame the owners of the groves for selling to the lumber companies. It may be argued that they could not afford to keep such valuable property and obtain no return from it. Possibly neither should the lumber companies he blamed for their attack on the trees. Years of forest slaughter have made such men callons to the heauty and grandeur of trees as trees. They see in them only their worth as lumber. It is heir business to cut-down trees, and it matters not to them whether they destroy one that has lasted through the life of all the world's great empires or one that has merely seen the rise and fall of a Latin republic.

When one considers the magnificent character of these trees it seems wonderful that at their threatened annihilation there has not ariser such a clamor from the people as to force Congreas to take action to save them. They are the grandest, the largest, the oldest and the most majestically graceful of all the trees on the earth. Coming to us as they do through the changeful centuries, solely because of their superb qualifications it seems a nity that they should be permitted to perish. Were the vandal hand of man stayed they would be safe fo centuries, even though never a new tree were to grow.

The oldest specimens felled are still sound a the heart, and fungus is an enemy unknown to them. With these advantages it might be imagined that the big trees would increase their range, but they have not done so. Ever since the comparatively few survivors of the glacial epoch were left on the slopes of the Sierras they have prospered only there. The climate in that little stretch seems to have been favor able to them and they have just managed to

They are found nowhere else in the world. Efforts have been made to grow them in Engand and in the Eastern States of this country but they have not been attended with success. There are two small trees in Rochester, N. Y. which have attained a height of forty feet and possibly in 500 years, if they live, they may attain something of the greatness of their Cali-

botanical name is preferred, is found only in small groves scattered along the west slope of American River to the head of Deer Creek, a distance of 200 miles. The utmost search reyeals but ten main groups, and the total number of sizable trees in these groups must be limited to figures in the thousands. It is, moreover, the plain truth that all the specimens which re remarkable for their size do not exceed 500

The Calaveras grove, which was the first to be discovered, boasts of the biggest and the tallest trees, the most uncontaminated surroundings and cractically all the literary and scientific associations of the species. It is situated in the county of that name near the Stanislaus River. It occupies a belt 3,200 feet long by 700 feet broad. There are between 90 and 100 trees of large size in the grove and a considerable number of smaller ones, on the outkirts. It was discovered in 1841 by John Bid-

Many years ago one of the finest trees in the 116 feet above the ground. The bark thus removed was exhibited in the Crystal Palace in England, where it was later destroyed by fire. It was owned by J. L. Sperry until very recently, when he sold it to a lumberman, who came into full possesion on April 1, 1900. It is said

sacrificed in the interest of pecuniary gain.
Six miles southeast of the Calaveras grove is the Stanislaus grove, which is said to contain about one thousand trees and has also been recently sold by Mr. Sperry. Twenty-five miles southeast of the last-mentioned grove is one known by the name of Tuolumne. Some of the trees here are very large, but on the whole of not such magnificence as those of the Cala-

The Mariposa grove lies about sixteen miles outh of the lower hotel of the Yosemite valley. It is owned by the State of California, having been ceded to it by the United States in 1865. The extent of the Mariposa grant is two square miles, or roughly only about 4 per cent. of the total area upon which the big tree grows. This is the only grove which is now completely protected from the lumberman's axe.

The other groves are known as the Fresno, the Kings and Kaweah rivers, the North Fork Tule River, the South Fork Tule River, the Merced and the Dinky. The Fresno grove is controlled by the Sanger Lumber Company and, of course, is doomed. The United States own and in part control two considerable areas within the Sequoia and General Grant National parks. The General Grant Park touches on the Kings River and Kaweah River grove. The Sequoia Park touches on part of the Tule Biver grove. The protection thus

afforded however, is vague.

There are seven valid private holdings amounting to over 1,000,000 acres along the west and south boundaries of the Sequoia Park and an equally good private holding of 160 acres in the edge of each of these groves there is now a sawmill operating upon the trees. It is parks contain big trees or just what the private tracts comprise, but it is certain that the Govfectly defined and poorly protected.

The extreme age obtained by the big tree is

still an unsettled question. Statements on the subject vary considerably, some appearing to be exaggerations. One great difficulty in settling the question of age for existing trees is the lack of a proper number of trunk sections on which to count the rings of annual growth,

thus giving unquestionably data on age. Ring countings from prostrate or burned or decayed trunks and sections of trees felled for other purposes than ring countings have largely furnished the basis of the age estimates made and from those countings age estimates that and from those countings age estimates that the far and destrable purchasers.—Adm

have been made for trees of other sizes which could not, of course, be cut down. It is the opinion of experts that the average rate of growth is one inch of diameter for every twelve years, which would make a tree twenty-five feet through 3,600 years old. John Muir, in an article discussing the age of the big tree some years

ugo, wrote: Under the most favorable conditions these giants probably live 5,000 years or more though few of even the larger trees are more than half as old. I never saw a big tree that had died a natural death: barring accidents they seem to be immortal, being exempt from all the diseases that afflict and kill other trees. Unless destroyed by man they live on indefinitely until burned, smashed by lightning, or cast down by storms, or by the giving way of the ground on which they stand. The age of one that was felled in the Calaveras Grove, for the sake of having its stump for a dancing floor, was about 1,300 years, and its diameter, measured across the stump, twenty-four feet nside the bark.

"Another that was out down in the Kings River forest was about the same size, but nearly a thousand years older (2,200 years). though not a very old-looking tree. It was felled to procure a section for exhibition, and thus an opportunity was given to count its annual rings of growth. The colossal scarred monument in the Kings River forest mentioned above is burned half through, and I spent a day making an estimate of its age, clearing away the charred surface with an axe and carefully counting the annual rings with the aid of a pocket lens.

"The wood rings in the section I laid bare were so involved and contorted in some places that I was not able to determine its age exactly. but I counted over 4,000 rings, which showed that this tree was in its prime, swaying in the Sierra winds, when Christ walked the earth. No other tree in the world, as far as I know, has looked down on so many centuries as the Sequoia, or opens such impressive and suggestive views into history."

In the northern groves there is very little natural reproduction of the big tree. In the southern groves the tendency to reproduction s more marked. This is especially true along the Tule River where there are young trees in abundance and of almost every age. The discouraging aspect of this is that the groves where the young trees are growing are at present likely to be cut down and should this happen the reproduction noted will avail little in perpetuating the species, as without the protecting influence of the mother forest the young trees are sure to die

There are two great obstacles to reproduction. Wherever cattle or sheep are allowed to graze through the grove the seedlings are killed. Fire is the other destroying agent. When the trees have attained their full growth, fire does little damage, as the mature bark is almost noncombustible. But with the young trees this is not true, and forest fires are exceedingly detructive of them.

The methods employed by the lumbermen in getting out their lumber are destructive to a nost unusual degree. In the first place, the enormous size and weight of the trees entail considerable breakage when one of them falls. Such a tree strikes the ground with a force of many undreds or even thousands of tons, so that even slight inequalities are sufficient to smash the brittle trunk at its upper extremity into ilmost useless fragments.

The great diameter of the logs and their normous weight make it impossible to handle many of them without breaking them up. For his purpose gunpowder is the most available means. The fragments of logs blown apart in this way are not only often of wasteful shapes, but unless very nice judgment is exercised in preparing the blast, a great deal of wood itself s scattered into useless splinters.

At the mill, where the waste is the rule of the manufacture of lumber in the United States. the big tree is no exception. This waste, added as it is to the other sources of loss, makes a total probably often in excess of half the voline of the standing tree. And this is only one side of the matter. The

big tree stands as a rule in a mixed forest composed of many species. The destruction caused by the fall of enormous trees is in itself great. but the principal source of damage is the immense amount of debris left on the ground - the broken branches, trunks and bark is often five standard metre, and the cylindrical weight rsix feet in thickness and necessarily gives rise to fires of great destructive power, even hough the big tree wood is not especially inflammable

The devastation whic's follows such lumbering is as complete and deplorable as the untouched forest is unparalleled, beautiful and worthy of preservation. As a rule it has not even had the advantage of being profitable. Very much of this appalling destruction has been done without leaving the owners of the big trees as well off as before it began.

STORM MOVED ABEL CHICK'S BARN. When He Couldn't Hanl His Hay Up to It the Building Kindly Slid Downbill.

ago Abel Chick came out to Beddington and put up a house on top of the Whale's Back. intending to run it as a half-way hotel on the old air line road from Bangor to Calais. He did a fair business until the European and North American Railroad was pushed through the woods from Bangor to St. John, N. B., where the Canadian Pacific caught up the passengers and whirled them to Calais in less time than horse could travel from Bangor to Chick's hotel. After that, as his patrons fell away, Chick took up farming. He cut large quantities of hay, which he sold to the who were going into the woods. His build-ings, however, stood on the top of the steepest hill in New England, the land sloping away on both sides like the roof of a house. Below him was a square mile of meadow land that yielded two tons of hay to the acre, and so rich that he could mow it for years without having to put in any fertilizers. The only trouble was to provide storage for the hay until the lumbermen came along to buy it

Chick had a great barn on the hilltop near his home, but hauling the hay up the ascent took off all the profits. For several years he stacked his crop where it was cut. Then deer hunters came, pitching their tents and kindling their fires in the woods near by and the fires spread, consuming the stacks before the snow fell. As Chick could not afford to lose his only means of getting a living. and as the companies would not insure hay in the stack, he made up his mind to move his barn from the hill and place it on the meadow

in the stack, he made up his mind to move his barn from the hill and place it on the meadow in the middle of his hayfields. All last summer he worked many days hauling stones and getting out timbers for a foundation, on which to rest the barn after-he had guided it down the hill. He finished the job about Oct. I. Then he spent a few days in making cables fast to large trees in order to control or check the progress of the building, should it attempt to take the descent on a run. On Saturday night preparations for the hazardous labor were completed Monday norning it was raining hard, so work was delayed until the storm should clear off.

Early Tuesday morning Chick started for his barn with a lantern to feed his horses. When he arrived where the barn had been for more than twenty-five years it was not there, though there was a hole in the ground to show where the cellar had been. A barn that was 100 feet long, 40 feet wide and 20 feet high would seem to be an easy thing to discover in, an open counity, but thick hunted for more than an hour before he found what he sought. The barn had been lifted off its underpinning and put on long timber shoes so it would not plough up the land in its path. During the night the rain had been lifted off its underpinning and squashy that the entire hillside had concluded to move down to the meadow. The barn, which was on top of the mass of earth, had ridden down the hill as safely as a privileged spectator on board a new ship at the launching.

The portable hill of elay had stopped about a quarter of a mile short of the spot where Chick had built a foundation for the barn's reception, but as the transported earth was in the form of a hill, and lifted the barn far above possible contact with water, Chick will put in a few stones for underpinning and let the building remain where the storm deposited it. He says the landslide saved him an expenditure of more than \$200.

The Intelligence of a "Sun" Reader

MOST DELICATE OF SCALES

USED TO DO THE GOVERNMENT WEIGHING AT WASHINGTON.

Even the Heat of the Body Affects the Instru ment and the Weighing Is Done From Afar
-The Standard Kilogramme and Metre

Other Standards Urgently Needed. In the windowless basement room, originally built for a coal vault, of an old mansion near the national Capitol in Washington is mounted the most delicate pair of scales in the United States. To these scales is intrusted the work of doing the Government's weighing. They are part of the equipment of the Treasury Department's Bureau of Weights and Measures which is attached to the Coast Survey, though why this should be so nobody has ever adequately explained.

So delicate are these scales that they will weigh accurately a ten-millionth part of a gram. They are so sensitive that the warmth giver off by the body of a person approaching them near enough to open the glass case or to shift the weights, would expand the balance arms and produce an appreciable error in the results Therefore they have been so constructed that they may be operated at a distance of twenty feet. It is not necessary to open the case or to go near the machine even to shift the weights Three long brass rods extend from the base of he case containing the scales, and at the extremity of each is a wheel, and by turning these wheels the weights may be shifted from one pan to another, or any other necessary operations conducted. The readings are made through a small telescope mounted where the

Too late it was discovered that the establishment of the instrument in a corner of the room was a mistake. The fact that one wall is three feet away and the opposite one nine feet, has a marked effect on the scales. On the side where the wall is close the temperature is different from the other side, and whenever the instrument is used it has been found necessary to surround it with large sheets of asbestos paper Besides this, the attraction of the wall for the netal in the scale beams has to be taken into

These are only a few of the things which have to be allowed for in doing a fine job of weighing Large corrections have to be made for the temperature, humidity and density of he air. With each weighing there must be a reading of the thermometer, barometer and wdrometer and corrections to correspond to he conditions existing at the time. In Gernany there are scales so built that the weighing an be conducted in a vacuum, but this Governnent owns no such apparatus.

Incredible as it may seem the difference of in inch or two from the centre of the earth, thousands of miles away, causes an appreciable variation in the weight of the objects. This s illustrated by placing two equal weights side by side in each pan, when the beam shows no variation. But place one of the weights on top of the other in one pan, leaving the other pai ide by side in the other pan, and the balance will be disturbed. The weights used in this experiment are scarcely two inches in height, that the difference in distance from the earth's centre, considered in comparison to the distance tself, is infinitesimal

A still further allowance is demanded by lentific accuracy. Even in a fifteenhundred-dollar Rupbrecht instrument, like the one owned by the Government bureau, is not pretended that the two arms of the balance are of the same length. Official Verifler Frank A. Wolff says that no scales were ever built in which the arms were of exactly he same length. The only thing to do therefore is to check up the error by weighing alternately on one side and the other, and then averaging the results.

The standard from which measures of length and mass are derived are stored in the same building near the Capitol. The standard of mass is a cylindrical-shaped piece of whitish netal about the size of a tennis bail. The standard of length is a bar of the same silver-like metal about three feet long and a little less than an inch square. Each face is deeply grooved and in one of the grooves at either end is a polished spot on which three delicate hair lines are marked. The middle one of these lines certain source of future fire. This mass of determines the end of the bar. The bar is a the standard kilogramme. The material tinum and iridium, the latter being added to give additional hardness to the metal which above all others is recognized as the most durable. The value of the metal alone in this standvalue from the labor expended in making it per-

fectly accurate. The kilogramme and metre standards are the result of fifteen years' labor by a joint congress of scientists, supported by seventeen of the leading civilized nations. The International Metric Convention was organized in 1875, and on June 2, 1890, the President of the United States broke the seal of he standard kilogramme and metre which fell to the share of this country, and in he presence of the Secretary of the Treasury and a number of invited guests, assembled n the Cabinet room of the Executive Mansion,

declared them officially adopted. These originals have been used but once since. This was when a very accurate copy was made from each for practical use by the Government bureau in regulating the standard weights and measures of the country. The riginal kilogramme was then placed under wo glass bell jars which were locked and sealed. No human hand has touched the kilo-gramme since it left the makers in Paris; what tile handling has been necessary has been done th a pair of special forceps covered with oft chamois skin. This is to prevent increase f weight by the adhesion of minute quantities foreign substances, or decrease of weight

It has not been found necessary to exercise an equal degree of care in preserving the standard metre: a little moisture or dirt would not lengthen or shorten the metallic bar. Neverheless it is kept in a case of velvet surrounded with wood and protected on the outside by a heavy iron cylinder with a screw cap. It is reloved only on special occasions.

July 28, 1886, Congress passed an act making the metric system lawful throughout the United States and defining the weights and measures in common use in terms of the units of this system. The Government mint, however, has a system of its own. By a special act of Congress passed in 1828 the Troy pound was made the standard for weighing the Government bullion, and a prototype obtained the previous year from London and made by Gallatin, was

in a haphazard sort of way to supply the States with accurate standards of the ordinary pound. bushel and gallon used in everyday commercial transactions. Each State is supposed to have a full set of the Government prototypes, and the bureau at Washington is now engaged in of the Far West. Each State is supposed to have an official sealer of weights and measures with a corps of inspectors under him; and then each municipality or township is supposed to have its duly appointed authorities who have their working copies of the standard measures and see that tradesmen do not employ false

scales in dealing out their wares to the people. That is the theory of it; the way it works out worked out standards which are furnished by the Government are usually stored in cellars or unused vaults and their very existence forgotten. In one of the Eastern States it was discovered recently that the goldplated half-bushel standard measure was being used to feed the horse belonging to the Assistant Chief of the Fire Department; the standard pound weight was busy holding a door open: the gallon measure found its sphere of usefulness as a cuspidor and the smaller prototypes all had jobs as paper weights. In another State the custodian bored a hole in the standard of liquid measure and fitted it.

with a spigot in order to facilitate the measur-

ing operations. Sometimes the State officials begin to sus pect that their measures are in need of polishing up and they send them to Washington for renewal. Thus weights which never should be handled except with specially devised instruments come in battered and bruised and corroded until they have not a suggestion of ac uracy about them.

There is no doubt that the public is cheated daily in a thousand small ways by false weights and measures. There is a certain style of scales in common use which the Government experts say should be absolutely forbidden. This is the scale which has two pans supported on uprights which rise from a horizontal bar balanced in the middle on a pivot. The balance may be perfect and the weights up to standard, and yet the customer may have short weight given to him by the simple device of placing the weight on the outside of the pan and th nerchandise on the side nearest the pivot. Thus one arm of the balance is lengthened and the other shortened in the interest of the dealer. The advent of electricity and the general advancement of science has brought new work

to the Bureau of Weights and Measures. It has also emphasized the need of adequate legisation under the constitutional power to provide the country with uniform standards. All over the land people are paying for electric light; and yet they have no standard by which to measure it or to gauge the size of their bills except the say-so of the company which furnishes it. There is no legal standard of measure and the ohm, which is borrowed from Germany, may be a big or a little ohm as it suits he company to make it. There is no standard andle power, and there is no way for a customer to know whether his lamp is of a certain brilliance or not. The same principle applies to the scale of electric power for the running of machinery. The United States have bought some testing apparatus for measuring volts and ohms from Germany, but no effort has been made to furnish standards to the States. The appropriation for this purpose has been entirely inadequate.

There is almost no occupation where the need of accurate standards of some kind is not felt. For example, it is said that it is almost impossible to get an accurate clinical thermometer. A physician happens to have a high registering instrument, and all the patients he is called upon to examine show an alarming temperature. A surveyor has a wrong tape and years later the error results in a lawsnit and great loss. Not long ago a discrepancy amounting to \$50,000 between a bill of lading and the goods delivered was traced to a defective hydrometer used to gauge alcoholic spirits. In the customs duty on sugar, the importations of which amount to a hundred million dollars a year, an error of the smallest fraction in one of the small flasks used in the tests will cause a difference in the amount of receipts amounting to thousands of dollars. mometer. A physician happens to have a high receipts amounting to thousands of dollars. The need for uniformity in the customs was recognized in 1880, when an investigation showed

The need for uniformity in the customs was recognized in isso, when an investigation showed great discrepancies resulting in such serious loss to the Government that the Secretary of the Treasury was compelled to take action without waiting for Congress.

The question of establishing an American Standardizing Bureau will come before Congress at next winter's session. A bill was introduced last December and was favorably reported by the House committee having it in charge. The Senate Committee on Commerce has not yet given it consideration. It is proposed to create a bureau with authority to undertake all functions contemplated by the clause in the Constitution relative to fixing the standard of weights and measures." standard of weights and measures

EARLY NEGRO MINSTRELS. Edwin Forrest and Joseph Jefferson Appeared in Burnt Cork.

From the Philadelphia Saturday Evening Post. About thirty or forty years ago, when Edwin Forrest was in the heyday of his popularity he went into a Western town, the exact location of which I do not recall, and played to such arge audiences during his stay that on the norning he was to leave he remarked to the manager that he was surprised to find such a cultured town and that it could furnish such large audiences for Shakespearean plays.

"The minstrels are here," replied the manager.

"What has that got to do with it?" asked the

tragedian.

"Why, the minstrels play in the afternoon and the people come into town to see them; then, having nothing to do in the evening, they

Perhaps the manager was attempting to be mny and exaggerated matters. But there is a foundation for the story, as one whose mem-ory goes back thirty of forty years will admit. Negrominstrelsy to-day has settled into a regu-lar thing, people go to a show, enjoy it, memorize

Negroministrelsy to-duy has settled into a regular thing people go to a show enjoy it, memorize the "gags," work them off with an unconscious and spontaneous air on less fortunate friends, and then wait for the return of the show to lay in a new supply. But there was a time when ministrelsy had a beginning, just like the earth and Adam and Eve, and it was a beginning with a boom, and everything else gave way before it.

There is some disagreement as to which was the first ministrel organization, but undoubtedly it was Christy's ministrels that first spread the fame of the organized troupe and made an impression on the Country. And as for its impression on the world, where the band made its home for several years, Thackeray himself stands witness. Christy became synonymous with the word ministrel, as my own experience well attests.

A ministrel in this country has the satisfaction of knowing that he is working in a kind of anusement that is the genuine product of America. I suppose, however, that Shakespeare put the first negro on the stage (a Moor to him was a negro), but Othello was not a ministrel; he played a heavier line of business. From almost the beginning of American stage history there were negroes of the ministrel variety impersonated on the stage, though it was not until about the 'ios that they were organized into bands. Some of the greatest actors of later days had their experience as ministrels, among them Joe deflerson and Edwin Forrest.

Forrest was given a negro "song and dance act" to do when he was very young, and after he had studied it up he asked where was the "old negro lady" that was to act as his assistant in the piece. The management tried several of the women who were members of the company, but none of them would consent to blacken up, and, in fact, they were very indigened. The ministrel of the first performance he blackened up and went around the corner to a

way on the stage is an interesting part of the story of minstrelsy.

In 1829, while Rice was doing a small negro act at the Louisville Theatre, he happened to clock out of the back window, which faced a stable kept by an old and broken-down negro called Jim Crow. One of Crow's shoulders was much lower than the other, his left leg was stiff and crooked at the knee, so that when he walked he went up and down in a most ludicrous fashion.

This day he was standing in the yard hum. dicrous fashion.

This day he was standing in the yard humming a peculiar tune to himself, the words of which were his own. When he had finished a verse he would give a jumping step, which has since become famous as "rockin' de heel."

The refrain of his song was:

When about jum about.

Wheel about, turn about, Do Jes so. An' ebery time I wheel about I jump Jim Crow.

Rice saw that here was something new. He studied the old man, made the tune a little bit more lively, wrote a number of new verses, and copying the original very closely in make-up appeared as Jim Crow at the Louisville Theatre. He was recalled more than twenty times the first night, and always after was known as Jim Crow Rice.

In 1833 when Joe Jefferson was only 4 years of age, Rice appeared at a benefit at the Jefferson Theatre in Washington, and carried the little fellow on the stage in a bag, costumed and blackened exactly like the Jim Crow Rice. As Rice shambled on the stage he sang this couplet:

Ladies and gentiemen, I'd have you for to know

Ladies and gentiemen, I'd have you for to know I'se got a little darky here to jump Jim Crow.

THE DEACON'S LOVE LETTER

HE PRINTS AND DISTRIBUTES APPEAL FOR A MUSICAL WIFE. Frequent Trips to New York in Search of Kind, Healthy Maiden or Widow Lady With

Good Hearing and Good Memory"-Alluring Description of Domestic Happiness. Women of musical propensities, and of any age, may expect at any time a visit from Deacon Stephen T. Meech of Preston City, Conn. The Deacon is due in town this week with the fourth edition of 'S. T. Meech's Printed Personal Love Letter."

The last time the Deacon struck New York he distributed a number of copies of this appeal. but he did not achieve his heart's de-ire. For years the Deacon has tried to keep up with the idea that somewhere in Greater New York-for the Deacon demands city graces -a woman who can sing, play, pray and make hot bulscults is waiting to marry him. For some reason he takes no chances with possible candidates in Preston City, Conn., and there is a dark suspicion up there that he spends a large share of a good country produce income in matrimonial advertisements without result. At any rate, once in three months the Deacon packs his grip, puts on his meetinghouse clothes, rolls up a package of his printed personal love letters and comes to town. When he arrives he leaves his grip in the parcel room at the Grand Central Station and starts in to work up the business he has thought out in his seclusion. He always fails but his perseverance is amazing.

On the 25th of last April the author of a mu sical text book received at her residence a letter mailed from Preston City, Conn.; by the Deacon. He said he had just bought her work, admired , and included her in his comprehensive love for women of musical culture. He said he felt that she would repay investigation and that he proposed to look her up when next he came to town. Meanwhile, he would be glad to be put right as to her age, appearance, temper and general habits. Would she oblige? Nobody could have written the letter but the Deacon bimself. It resked with rhetoric and was full of his own unbridled personality. But the author of the work on music paid no attention to l The Deacon did not appeal to her imagination, and her sense of propriety was shocked.

On the 4th of September the Deacon called a her house and learned that she had moved. He followed the trail and rang the doorbell at her new home at 3:45 o'clock on the same afternoon. The private secretary of the composer is her niece, who answered the ring at the door of the apartment. What follows is her indignant description of the proceedings:

"He looked like a most respectable old gentlenan, but I didn't remember who he was until later, so I stepped outside in the hall and closed the door behind me. He grasped me warmly by the hand and said he was very glad to meet ne. When I told him that I was not my aunt. but my aunt's private secretary, he said he was very much disappointed, but I looked like the sort of person he was looking for." (The niece is a very comely young woman.) He said he didn't want to see my aunt's public or private secretary, but the lady herself, and lay his heart and fortune at her feet. I don't fancy he had much of a fortune, judging from his clothes, but then you know you can't tell anything about a man from the way he dresses. And then such an extraordinary old gentleman to want to get married! He was about 70 years old, with a shiny bald head and a few white hairs curling behind his ears; he had a stubbly, bristly, white beard, and hitle, leering, black eyes. Before I could say another word he handed me out what I thought was a printed circular and this is it. Did you ever see anything so ridiculcus in your life?" The c reular is as follows:

PRESTON CITY, CONN., WEDNESDAY, July 18, 1900. T. MERCH'S PRINTED PERSONAL LOVE LETTER. Dear Madam: Being a kind, healthy, well-to-do Bachelor, worth about \$10,000, Stephen T. Meech has lost much by associating little with ladles, whose company greatly improves gentlemen. Each sex prefers the company of the other to that of its own. At my advanced age, my hearing and my memory are imper-fect. Are you a kind, healthy, maiden or fect. Are you a kind, healthy, maiden or widow lady with good hearing and good memory? Whether you be my urife or not, this Love Letter has important ideas about Music and

I am a bass singer; but I have never tried to and play a tune on any musical instrument. Being very fond of good sacred and secular music, especially of good sacred music, I have one

Shail I be your lucky choice, Always making you rejoice? Will you be my loving wife, Till I leave my earthly life! Let us tunes and words unfold. Let us both be Christians bold, Let us both each other love Here, and in our home above.

Two housekeepers I have had So unkind they made me sad. Will you satisfy my mind With one that is very kind? Try our married life and see Happiness for you and me: Playing, singing, reading, sweet Would our pleasure oft complete.

Music's charms for young and old Would delight us more than gold: Tunes and Words quite sweet and strong Would lead us with Lovely Song.

Music's charms for young and old Would delight us more than gold:
Tunes and Words quite sweet and strong Would lead us with Lovely Song.

Notwithstanding our great difference of age, with our large mutual love, our disagreements could be kindly compromised, and our agreements would make us truly happy.

"The effect of good music is not caused by its norelty. On the contrary, it strikes us more the more we are familiar with it." "MUSIC. WHEN COMBINED WITH WORDS, HAS ITS GREATEST POWER. Music illuminates feeling, and appropriate words illuminates steeling, and appropriate words illuminates feeling, and when he colock, and while both, and when she toled the pieces

Good tunes finely played, appropriate words plainly sung, appropriate words plainly spoken, and good housekeeping well done, are some of my most important hobbies. Indistinct pronunciation of the words is my greatest fault with singing generally, and with speaking frequently. I hardly expect you to compose music, but Harmony lessons help both the composer and the performer of music.

When and where may I visit you? Will you furnish me your fine photograph, and your worthy self as my wife?

Madam, will your Love for me Always true and ardent be? "Love and love only is the loan for love."

STEPHEN T. MEECH. "While I was reading it he told me that it say the third edition," continued the niece, and I wondered to whom he could have sent it, the others, but when I read it I sort of

ed him along, you know. Well, I found that he had never been married "Well, I found that he had never been married at ail. He said that he had never found anybody to love him, and that he had made up his mind to get married before he died or anyhow die trying. He said that when he was a boy his father had offered a girl up in Connecticut a farm for agreeing to marry him, but at the last moment she up and married another man, which was rather snippy, don't you think? Although I don't know as I blame her. Then there was a girl in Baltimore, He went down to Baltimore, it seems, and met her; she gave him her photograph and he had an oil painting made from that photograph at the cost of \$35." Then, he said, I writ her a letter sayin't he ricture was ready for her to see an! I was goin'to bring it down to Baltimore, an' she writ me back a real sassy letter, b'gosh! an' said if she had to see me she didn't want to see the picture.

icture."
"Then he asked me to sing right there in the all: I got a bit frightened then, but it was so wfully funny, don't you know? I told him I ever sang alone and felt for the doorknob; but e stepped between me and the door, and he

You are only a young girl an' mebbe you're a little skeery, but I'm agoin' to sing for you, b'cosh, if I break a leg. I'm goin' to sing you a tune in a minor mode; mebbe you don't know the words and mebbe you do, but anyhow I'm goin' to let it off, and before I could scream he began to sing in a cracked voice: 'Just as I am without one plea.'

Just as I am without one plea.'
and he sang the whole four verses, leaning against the door, and between each verse he would pant and glare and then start in again. Then I began to laugh, which was dreadful, of course, but I couldn't heip it; and it's a wonder the janitor didn't come up. When he was done singing he still kept hold of the door; and I was so weak from laughing that I hadn't the strength to call for anybody to put him out. Then he said:
"I came down here at a good deal of expense,

Then he said:
"I came down here at a good deal of expense,
b'gosh! but I ain't doin' much here unless you're
willin' to marry me; be ve?" I told him I
wasn't and it was time for him to go away. By
this time he had left the door and I got hold of
the handle and opened it and stepped inside.
Then he went away." Then he went away.

DIVISION OF LABOR IN PARIS. Troubles of an American Exhibitor Who

Wanted a Cement Platform Built. His name might have been Jones, although it was something else. When he first landed in France to supervise the putting up of some American machinery exhibits his only knowledge of the land and its people consisted o' schoolbook reminiscences and of impressions received from various works of fiction, among which "Trilby" held a prominent place. On the basis of that scant knowledge he had built up the theory that the French were an indusious, polite and intelligent people, although omewhat given to frivolity.

His opinions received a slight shock in Paris when he discovered that the principal business of the Exposition officials seemed to be to shrug their shoulders at inquirers who had not learned better than to ask questions. Jones soon learned that most of the foreign machinery exhibits, including those of his own firm, had been transferred to the annex at Vincennes because of lack of space within the Exposition grounds. The opening day was approaching and time was precious. Jones did not lose an hour in repairing to Vincennes, together with a pair of skilled American mechanics. Perseverance and good luck helred him to fish his exhibits out of the general chaos, and the work of uppacking was soon completed. It was then discovered that the plank flooring of the machinery hall was too weak to support a crane their shoulders at inquirers who had not learned

Central Office, who is detailed at the District Attorney's office, goes to Europe after criminals oftener than any of the other detectives on Capt. McClusky's staff with the exception probably of his partner. Detective Sergeant John Coff. The other day McNaught walked into the detectives' office in the Criminal Court Building, sat down at his desk and held his head with both hands.

"Got a headache?" asked Cuff.
"Worse than that," answered McNaught, "Tim sick all over."

"You look worried," said Cuff.
"So would you, if your wife did it," replied McNaught. "Yes, John, she did and she didn't mean to You see it was this way. We have a servant girl in the house who smashes glassware every time she washes it. So my wifewell, it's a sad story, John—my wife wanted to clean the clock herself. It was made a present to me the last time I was in Paris and the fellow who gave it to me said it was worth \$1,000 because it was made of pieces of marble found in all parts of the world. It consisted of 265 different kinds of marble. Just think of that, John. Two hundred and sixty-flve pieces. Well, Mrs McNaught thought the servant would break the clock if she attempted to wash it, so she put on an apron and put the clock in a boiler of hot water to give it a good washing, thinking she would surprise me when I got home. Well, John, it's a sad story. When I got home. Well, John it's a sad story when I got home. I found her in the dining room with -yes, John, it's a sad story—I found her trying to paste the 265 pieces of the clock with a mucilage brush."

"And what happened, Bob?"

GAMES WE USED TO PLAY

AND SOME NEW ONES THAT AMUSE THE CHILDREN NOW AT RECESS.

Report of the Director of Physical Training in Brooklyn-Ball Games for Older Pupils, Bean Bag Contests for Younger Ones, Singing Games for Kindergartners.

Miss Jessie H. Bancroft, director of physical raining to the schools of Brooklyn, has just ssued an interesting pamphlet describing the games played by the children during the recess hours. The games are classified as ball, bean bag and miscellaneous circle and singing games. In all there are sixty-five varieties. It has been said that the teachers are op-

posed to teaching and participating in these games. This is apparently not so. The physical director is authority for the statement that teachers discovered and introduced many of the games described in the pamphlet. Besides, the teachers often become so attached to their charges that anything that interests the pupils doubly interests them. It is also true that taking part in the games with the children gives the teachers helpful relaxation from their official duties. Included in the educational exhibit of this

city at the Paris Exposition were five moving pictures showing school children at play. These pictures created quite a stir among the people at the fair who were interested in educational work. The Russian Minister of

educational work. The Russian Minister of Education thought so much of them that he asked permission to have the pictures exhibited in Russia after the fair authorities were through with them. This request was granted.

The kames described in the pamphlet are intended for use at recess. As there is not enough room in many of the school yards to permit of a large number of the children playing at the same time. It has been found best to have two classes of boys and two of girls go to their respective yards for recess at one time and play the kames for ten or fifteen minutes. In this way twenty-four classes can have a recess of the minutes each in an hour, or a recess of fifteen minutes each in an hour and a half. The games are not limited to any certain strades, but where they have been found most successful and interesting to the children the grades are mentioned in the pamphlet.

to the children the grades are mentioned in the pamphiet.

There are eleven different kinds of ball games. Of these basketball is probably the most violent; but, as the pamphlet states, only the children in good physical conditionshould be allowed to play it, and only children who are in their fifth to eighth school years. The manner of playing the game is well known. Drive ball is another game which is only played by the older children. A court is mapped out and a big, soft ball is placed between the captains of the two lined-up teams of five players each. The ball is driven back and forth between the teams, but can only be hit by the fist. A goal counts two points. Another game is A goal counts two points. Another gas "circle catch" ball. A circle is formed six or eight feet between each player. first player who fails to catch the ball steps into the centre. He tosses the ball to a player first player who fails to catch the ball steps into the centre. He tosses the ball to a player in the circle, who, in turn, throws it around the circle, the game being to keep it away from the player in the centre. If he catches it the one toward whom it was thrown takes his place in the centre. This makes an interesting game and keeps the players continually on the move. A game similar to this is played by the children forming a circle and the player in the centre throwing the ball in the air, at the same time calling to one of the players in the circle to catch it. If he is successful he remains in his place; if not, he goes to the centre. "Centre base" and "pass" ball are played on the same lines. "Arch" ball is played with two or more lines, single file, the players about two feet apart. The leader throws the ball backward overhead to the player behind. If the ball falls to the ground, the one who fails to catch it must return to his position in the line. The last one in the line runs to the front with the ball takes his place at the head of the line and begins over again. The line wins whose leader that catched the content of the front with the ball takes his place at the head of the line and begins over again. The line wins whose leader that catched the first cets hack to the front. The other games

discovered that the plank flooring of the machinery hall was too week to support a crane which formed an important part of the exhibit. The only remedy was to sink a cement platform in the ground and fasten the crane to it.

Jones looked up a contractor who agreed to build the platform without delay. It should be four feet long, wide and deep. Then he returned to Paris for the night to take in some of its pleasures, which, however, did not prevent him from being in Vincennes again at a very early hour next day. He found his own workmen cursing in helpless despair. Four French artisans were contentedly smoking their pipes seated on barrels of cement which were grouped around the spot where the platform was to go down.

"A hole mast be cut in the flooring before we can put in the cement," explained one who appeared to be a foreman.

"Well, cut it," cried Jones. "I have already secured permission for you to do it."

"Oh, no," protested the spokesman. "We could not do that. You must get a carpenter to cut the blanks."

It took Jones several hours to find a carpenter and to come to an understanding with him. The best thing he could do after that was to get some lunch. Made wiser by experience he prolonged his absence as much as he could with the result that, when he returned in the attempon, he saw a songer hole cut in the floor.

Law a boss singert but I have never fried to very front of not of sord and secular music. I have not very front of not sord and secular music, it have not been seen to be an interest of the property of the player by whom he was tagged and the great of the sord of the so

Some French Jokes. In the clock and watch department of the Paris Exposition an expert called the attention of the Shah of Persia to a queer little pendule which he wished his Maiesty to buy. "This little clock," said he, "fires a pistol every hour!" "To kill time, I suppose," said the king of kings, as he walked away.

Mme. Z. to one of her woman friends: "I'm one year married to-day, and during all that time I could never induce my husband to get himself photographed. Just fancy—bool hool—when we come to be divorced I won't even have his picture!"

Morning dialogue: "Marie, my dear, I sup-pose you are going to the funeral of M. Duval to-day." "Charles, dear, you're crazy! I go to the funeral of that horrid old skinflint! Never on your life!" your life!"
"My dear, it affords a splendid opportunity
to exercise the dog "
"Oh, Charles dear, I never thought of that!
Of course I'll go!"

combined with Words. Has 12.5. Greatest powers. With words. Has 12.5. Greatest powers. With words. Has 12.5. Greatest powers. With words illuminate section, and appropriate words illuminate music. Plaintive sentiment is best expressed by good minor music are alike.

Proposing to be your loving husband, will you be my kind wife on the terms of this printed personnel love letter?

As soon as you have carefully perused this effectively perused this letter, please without fail to answer it. If you be my musical wife, and if the lessons be needed by you, please, at my expense, to take, of good teachers, important music lessons in Playing. Singing, and Harmony. According to copy, please to play, with good expression, all the parts of music. Do you most easily sing solainly sung, appropriate words plainly spoken, and good housekeeping well done, are some of my most important hobbies. Indistinct pronunciation of the words is my greatest full with a mingrang generally, and with speaking frequently. I hardly expect you to compose music, but Harmony lessons help both the composer and the performer of music.

madame."
Mrs. Pete never went there any more.